(d) whether the Ministry has requested to the Planning Commission to make additional allocation of funds in the field of power production; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the commission thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The 15th Power Survey Committee was constituted in March, 1994 to review the electricity demand projections in details upto 2001-2002 and to project the perspective demand upto 2011-12.

(b) As per the draft Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), following action plan has been contemplated to fulfil the demand for power supply.

(i) Early completion of the on-going projects.

(ii) Maximisation of benefits from the existing plants by improving the Plant Load Factor (PLF).

(iii) Reducing the Transmission & Distribution losses.

(iv) Rationalisation of electricity tariff.

(v) Establishment of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) at Centre and State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) at States level.

(vi) Demand management and energy conservation measures by different end-users.

(c) The 15th Electricity Power Survey Committee has assessed the agricultural, industrial and domestic consumption of power in the States separately upto 2001-02.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Ninth Plan programme and outlay therefor for the power sector is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

[English]

LPT at Nanpara, Bahraich (U.P.)

761. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the LPT at Nanpara District, Bahraich U.P. not functioning for the required hours; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the functioning of Nanpara LPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) This has been brought to the notice of Prasar Bharati Board which has to take necessary steps to improve the functioning of Nanpara LPT.

[Translation]

Clearance to Renkota Reservoir

762. DR. MAHANT CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal relating to clearance of the Renkota reservoir located at Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh has been pending with the Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the clearance would be accorded to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) A proposal for diversion of 51.015 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for construction of Renkota Tank Project in district Bilaspur has been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The proposal is under active consideration for final decision, which will be taken shortly.

[English]

Cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan

763. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to establish cooperation with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan in the field of power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States likely to be benefited as a results thereof of the cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The status of exchange of power with Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan is as follows :

1. **Bangladesh.** Consequent to the discussion regarding exchange of power between India and Bangladesh at various levels, the two Governments have agreed to prepare a joint feasibility report for interconnection of power systems between Bangladesh and India with Power-Grid Corporation of India Ltd. being authorised to prepare the feasibility report from the Indian side. The Asian Development Bank has agreed to finance a feasibility study for exchange of power between India and Bangladesh under its Regional Technical Assistance Programme. A Tripartite Meeting had been held at ADB, Manila on 29th and 30th May, 1997 regarding the Project. The project envisages export of surplus power from Eastern Region of India to Western